

Duvall Library Board Minutes, March 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. on March 24, 2008. Present were:
Library Board: Alan Butler, Don Barden, Denny Redman, Paige Denison, and Karen Wallin.

KCLS Duvall Library: Managing Librarian Laura Boyes

KCLS: Director Bill Ptacek.

City of Duvall: Mayor Will Ibershof, Planning Director Cari Hornbein

River Current News: Reporter Carol Ladwig.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes for the meeting held on February 25, 2008 that were previously distributed via Email were unanimously approved as written.

Old Business:

Library Hours During Construction of Carnation Library: Laura Boyes responded to the concerns expressed in the last board meeting by Joe Lee Davidson of the Duvall Civic Club/Friends of the Library (DCC/FOL) about expanding the weekday morning hours to better accommodate parents of young children. Laura said that Duvall will pick up the Wednesday morning hours from the Carnation library while that latter facility is under construction.

Laura said that the Carnation Library will close on May 5, but that limited services (book holds, some teen and children's books, and some "Choice Reads" selections, as well as on-line access to the library system), will be available in the Senior Center across the street in Carnation.

Other Library News: Laura said that the new Fall City Library is expected to open on May 3, 2008. She also noted that Aaron Avery was hired as the new circulation supervisor and will work out of the Woodinville Library. This will open a new lead library assistant position, also in Woodinville.

Status Update, New Duvall Library Facility: KCLS Director Bill Ptacek explained that he had spoken with Mike Brooks of Washington Holdings (WH). The purchase by WH of the property now owned by Safeway will be finalized in the first two weeks of April. Then WH and KCLS can finalize the agreement to turn over a library site to KCLS. Ptacek expressed some concerns about responsibility for basic site development costs (roads, drains, grading, etc.) and which entity would be responsible. That had to be nailed down, he said. He also said that he and Mike Brooks agreed that there had to be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to preclude WH from walking away from the project before a developer had been brought on board to do the actual site development and construction.

Ptacek said that the next step is the site planning process, with final approval by the City. This will take several months, and construction is expected to commence in the Spring of 2009.

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Duvall Planning Director Cari Hornbein expanded on Ptacek's remarks, and explained that the City Planning Department will work closely with the developer to ensure that the site planning process progresses smoothly and meets all the city requirements. This process encompasses grading, roads, drainage, location of structures to be built, etc. The outcome is a detailed map of the whole project, of which the library is but one part. She said that this process will take 4-6 months to complete and be approved by the City. Karen asked some more specific questions about the site planning process. Cari said that the Planning Department intended to work closely with WH and the developer to "have it all nailed down before we take it to the Planning Commission and Hearing Examiner." Karen asked if a Fall construction start was feasible. Cari said no, that construction costs during winter skyrocket, so that was extremely unlikely.

Ptacek wanted to make sure that the construction of the library would not be tied to the construction on the rest of the overall site by the developer. He wants to move ahead on design work for the library as soon as the site plan was approved whether or not other buildings planned by the developer were ready to go. Cari did not think that this would be an issue, and both she and Ptacek were certain that we would be "breaking ground this time next year." In response to questions from the Board and concerns expressed by Ptacek, Cari also suggested that KCLS might reasonably expect WH to "give KCLS a site ready to build."

Paige and other board members asked Cari and Ptacek a number of questions concerning the formalization of the verbal agreements between WH and KCLS to ensure that the project would not fall apart and that WH was committed to holding up their end of the bargain.

Denny expressed concern that Mike Brooks at the City Council meeting expressed "a lot of caveats" about the process. Mayor Will Ibershof emphasized that he had had conversations with both Mike Brooks and the President of WH and came away with the clear impression that WH was committed to the project. He noted that WH is not a lightweight, and manages the investments of the multi-billion dollar state pension fund.

The Mayor also said that he wants the City to review closely the siting of the extension of 3rd Avenue through to Big Rock Road. Cari said that this was a very important part of the site plan and that the engineers of the developers will need to work together and with the City on this important component. In response to other questions from Alan and other members of the Board, Cari said that the City had shared names of developers with WH with whom the City had worked successfully in the past. He also met with the folks from Lake Washington Technical College, who are developing an adjacent site, and they want to move at the same pace. The Mayor said that the City will "bird-dog" the entire process to ensure that it "moves along to the benefit of KCLS and the City."

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New Business:

KCLS Advisory Board Forums: Laura said that there will be a forum at the Kingsgate Library on May 15. She briefly reviewed the Teen Writing Contest that the Library is sponsoring, which is set for April.

Impact of the Main Street Project on the Duvall Library: The Mayor commented on the impact of this summer's Main Street project on the library, and said that Doreen Booth will be coordinating with the library and businesses affected by the utility excavations and sidewalk replacement, etc. Cari noted that the project would be completed in ½ to 1 block sections to minimize the impact on businesses, and that access would be limited only on days when concrete was being poured and while it cured. Alan asked if art was to be incorporated into the project. The Mayor said that it was and that there will be a competition for the public art to be part of the finished improvements to Main Street.

Other:

Duvall Civic Club/Friends of the Library: Laura expressed thanks to the DCC/FOL for purchasing a new coffee maker for the library staff. "They are really enjoying it," she said with some pleasure. Paige said that the DCC/FOL will be having its plant sale to raise funds for the library. It will be held before Mother's day, in late April or early May.

KCLS Board of Trustees Meeting: Paige reminded the Board that the next KCLS Board meeting will be later in the week, on March 26 at 5:00 p.m., in the Auburn Library.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2008.

Respectfully submitted, Don Barden